

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184741

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRO, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH REQUEST FOR JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
MEETING.

REF.: A) MADRID 4910; B) STATE 178466

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN STUDYING RESPONSE TO GOS
REGARDING CALL FOR MEETING OF JOINT SPANISH-UNITED STATES
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER COUNTERVAILING DUTIES
CASES OF SHOES AND OLIVES (REF A) PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT
OF SPANISH INVOCATION OF BOTH AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP
AND COOPERATION AS WELL AS JOINT DECLARATION OF
PRINCIPLES. HOWEVER, PREVIOUS ROUNDS OF INTER-AGENCY
CONSULTATION AND BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH SPANISH HAVE
CONVINCED US THAT THERE IS LITTLE MORE THAT CAN BE SAID
ON THIS SUBJECT. THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS
HAVE BEEN FULLY EXPOUNDED AND TREASURY HAS GRANTED
ADDITIONAL EXTENSION - TO AUGUST 30 - FOR SUBMISSION
OF WRITTEN COMMENTS IN PROCEEDINGS (REF B).

2. AMBASSADOR ALBA CALLED ON ASST.SECY ENDERS ON AUGUST
16 AND ASKED INTER ALIA ABOUT JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
MEETING. ENDERS POINTED OUT THAT SHOES AND OLIVES
HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY BUT THAT APPLICABLE
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US LAW PROVIDES NO FLEXIBILITY. US REPRESENTATIVES TO

POSSIBLE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING WOULD KNOW SPANISH POSITION IN ADVANCE AND WOULD REMAIN BOUND BY US LAW.

IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH NO OTHER MATTERS TO DISCUSS, ENDERS COULD SEE NO UTILITY TO SUCH MEETING.

3. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, DEPT. BELIEVES THAT BEST COURSE IS TO GIVE SPANISH CLEAR ANSWER THAT WE DO NOT SEE USEFULNESS IN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING ON THIS QUESTION. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING DRAFT NOTE TO RESPOND TO FONOFF NOTE OF JULY 30.

QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REFERS TO THE MINISTRY'S NOTE VERBALE DATED JULY 30, 1974, IN WHICH THE MINISTRY EXPRESSED THE INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN IN CONVOKING A MEETING OF THE JOINT SPANISH UNITED STATES ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES OF JULY 15, 1968.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION TO THE RECOMMENDATION FOR A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER CERTAIN QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE IMPORT OF NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR AND GREEN OLIVES IN CONTAINERS. AS THE MINISTRY IS AWARE, THESE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN MADRID AND IN WASHINGTON.

-- FURTHERMORE, THE APPROPRIATE OFFICES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAVE RE-EXAMINED THE RELEVANT SECTIONS OF UNITED STATES LAW APPLYING TO SUCH IMPORTS. BASED ON THIS THOROUGH REVIEW, AND IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF FLEXIBILITY IN PRESENT US COUNTERVAILING DUTY LEGISLATION, THE UNITED STATES IS OF THE OPINION THAT A MEETING OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC MEETING WOULD NOT BE AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER.

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THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TRUSTS THAT THE OPEN AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CLOSE RELATIONS ENJOYED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE AND THAT ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN THE COMMERCIAL FIELD WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE TRADITIONAL SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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